

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 21-234

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Etchison's Drug Store, Barnett's Drug Store

other Diamond Drug Store

## 2. Location

street and number

not for publication

city, town 226 E. Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg

vicinity

county Montgomery

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William I. King

street and number 9300 Edgewood Dr.

telephone

city, town Gaithersburg

state Md

zip code 20877

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co

liber 7147

folio 695

city, town Rockville

tax map FT 52 Fig 1 & 562 tax parcel 9487

tax ID number 2641463

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. <sup>M:</sup>21-234

### Condition

☐ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☒ x            good    ☐ ruins  
☐ fair        ☒ x    altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### SUMMARY

The composite building at 226 E. Diamond Ave. consists of a front gable portion on the west connected to a cross gable portion on the east, connected by a flat roof. All roofs appear to be metal. Several red brick chimneys protrude from the roofs. The foundation material is not visible. The building is characterized by many additions over time, utilizing differing materials. It sits on the sidewalk line at the corner of E. Diamond Ave. and Summit Ave. in Gaithersburg's Olde Towne.

### DESCRIPTION

The attached photos show the mass, scale, materials, and details of 226 E. Diamond Ave.



CONTEMPORARY PHOTO 1  
(WCHS) C1987

Photo 1—front elevation of Diamond Drug, showing peak of roof of Nicholl's Harness shop, cross gable roof and gable ends of original drug store, infill between the two buildings.

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Photo 2—east elevation of Diamond Drug, showing original gable end, corner infill, stucco siding, altered openings.

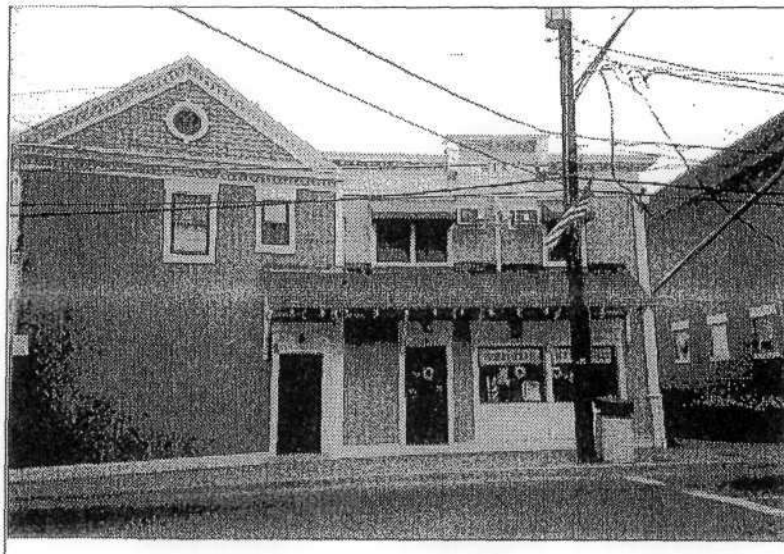


Photo 3—King's alteration of rear infill addition.

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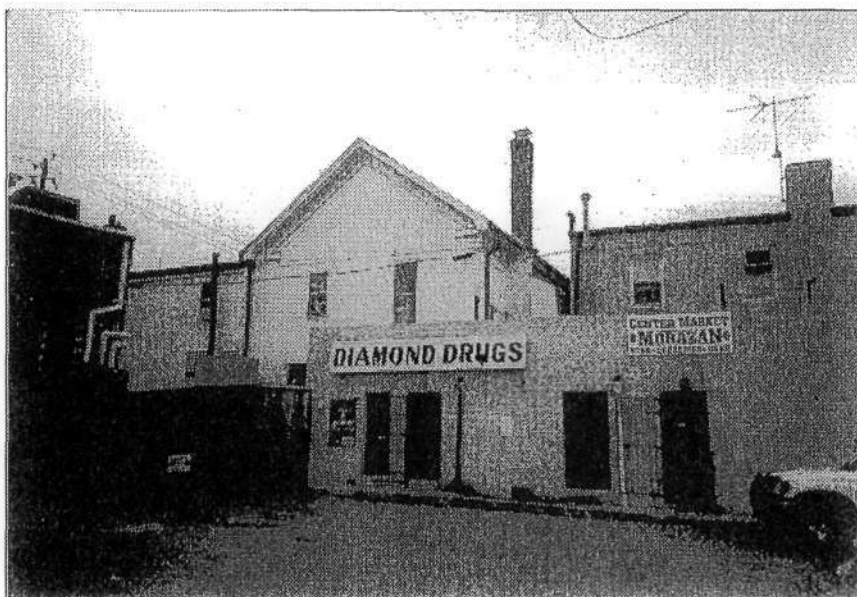


Photo 4—rear elevation of Nicholl's shop part of Diamond Drug.

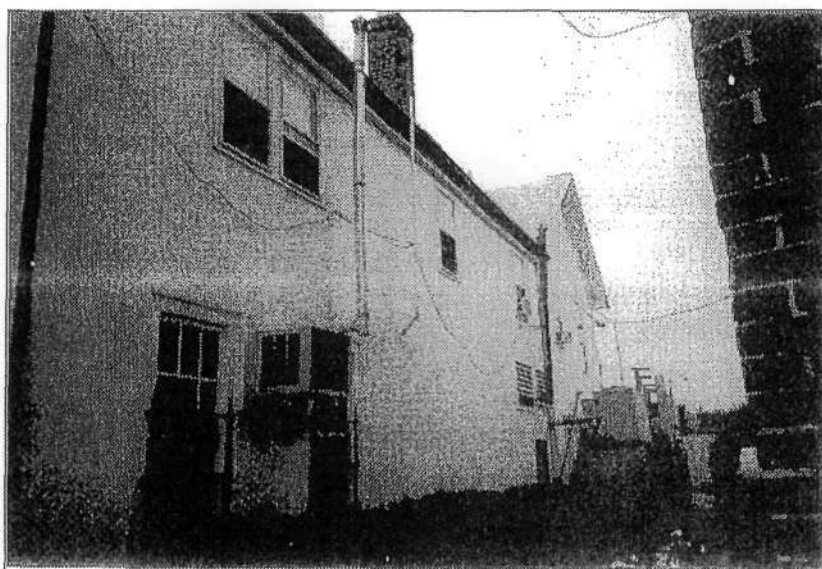


Photo 5—rear elevation of Diamond Drug.

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Photo 6—view of original roofs of Nicholl's harness shop and Etchison's drug store.



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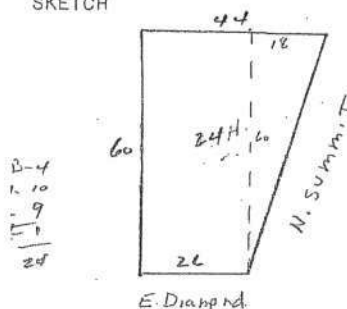
Name  
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30900- 09-02 2798.3 # DIAMOND AVE  
DIAMOND PRUF. BARBER SHOP  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION  
TYPE: COMM - STREET NO. COR E Diamond & Somerset PER. NO.  
CLASS: AVE OWNER: W. J. King YR. BLT. 1889  
DESCRIPTION: 2 sty. STORES APTS 5

EXTERIOR	INTERIOR	SERVICE & EQUIP.	RATE
FOUNDATION CONC	FLOORS <del>Part</del> or. wood	HEATING H-C	BLDG.
FRAMING WOOD	Parma 280	COOLING ✓	
ROOF Metal + flat	WALLS Plaster	PLUMBING	
FACING STUCCO -	CEILING Dry - Acoustic	6 Bath 1 lav	
GLASS -	FRAMING	LIGHTING 1 BLDG.	OTHER
TRIM	BSMT. PT 1/2	SPRINKLERS 16	
DASH		ELEVATOR No	PAVING

SKETCH



COMPUTATIONS

DIMENSIONS	SQ. FT.	CU. FT.
26 x 60 x 24	1560	37440
18 x 60 x 1/2 x 24	540	12960
	2100	50400

SUMMARY OF COSTS

50400 CF @ 70 = 35280

SUMMARY OF COST

50,400 C.F. @ .85 = 42840.

- 50% D.S.P. = 21420.

- 10% OBS = 19278.

No Change '75 Long  
9-30-74

TOTAL RECONSTRUCTION COST =

DEDUCT FOR ABNORMALITIES = 7711.

RECOMMENDED ASSM'T = 11600.

DAS - R/O DATE OF INSPECTION 4/9/75

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0903 0403 2362.28 DIAMOND AVE  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION  
PE: POMIN STREET NO. E. Diamond PER. NO. 1849  
CLASS: RVE OWNER: W.L. KING YR. BLT. 1849  
DESCRIPTION: 2 STORY FRAME STUCCO

EXTERIOR	INTERIOR	SERVICE & EQUIP.	RATE
FOUNDATION <u>CONC</u>	FLOORS <u>TILE ON CONC</u>	HEATING <u>HA</u>	BLDG.
RAMING <u>WOOD</u>	WALLS <u>Plaster</u>	COOLING	
DOOR	CEILING <u>Metall.</u>	PLUMBING	
ACING <u>STUCCO</u>	FRAMING	1 LAV - 2 BATHS	
	BSMT. <u>No</u>	LIGHTING	OTHER
		SPRINKLERS	
		ELEVATOR	PAVING

SKETCH

COMPUTATIONS

DIMENSIONS	SQ. FT.	CU. FT.
28 x 60 x 21	1680	35280

SUMMARY OF COSTS

25280 C.F. @ 70 = 24696

SUMMARY OF COST

Pl. of Drug Store 35280 c.f. @ .85 = 29988  
 Stor Shed = 300  
 30288  
 - 50% Disp = 15144

No Change 75 long  
 9-30-79

TOTAL RECONSTRUCTION COST =  
 DEDUCT FOR ABNORMALITIES = 6057  
 RECOMMENDED ASSMT = 2090

AS - R/O DATE OF INSPECTION: 4-18-72 BY: JDS

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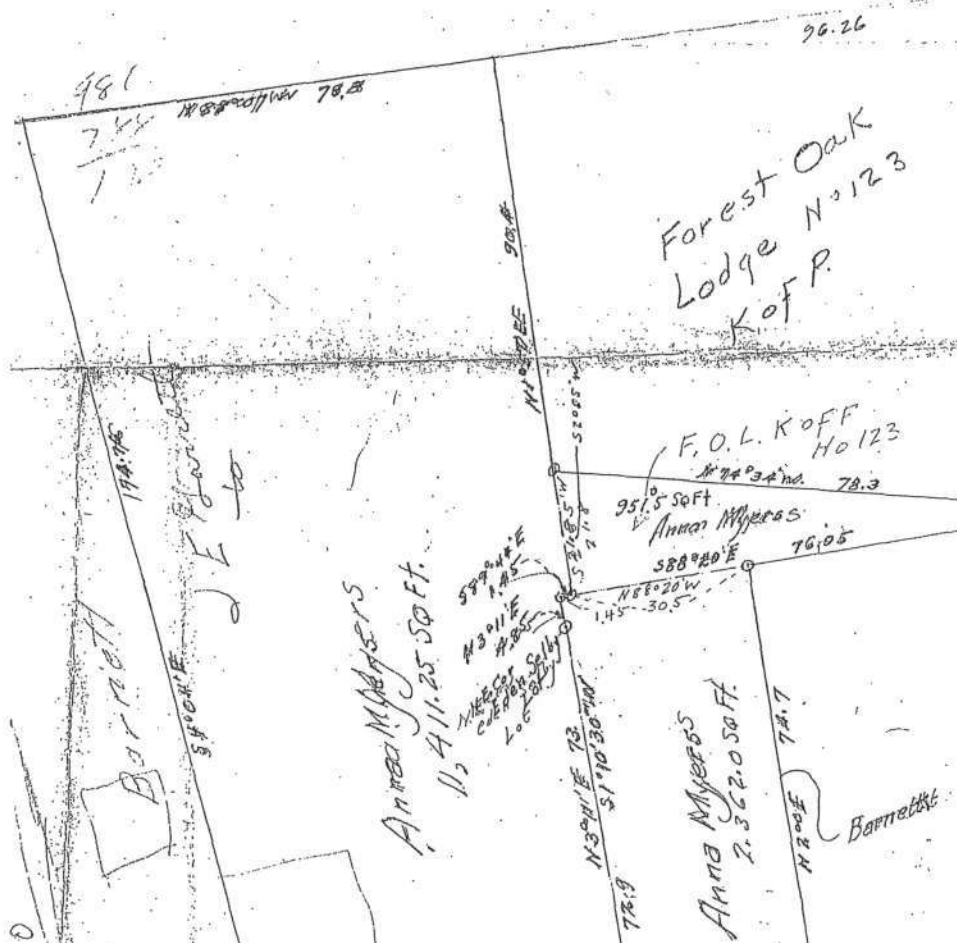
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Edmund A. Gloyd

Undated plat  
c 1930's

no Lot No Block 3  
R. & B. Adm. to Gaithersburg



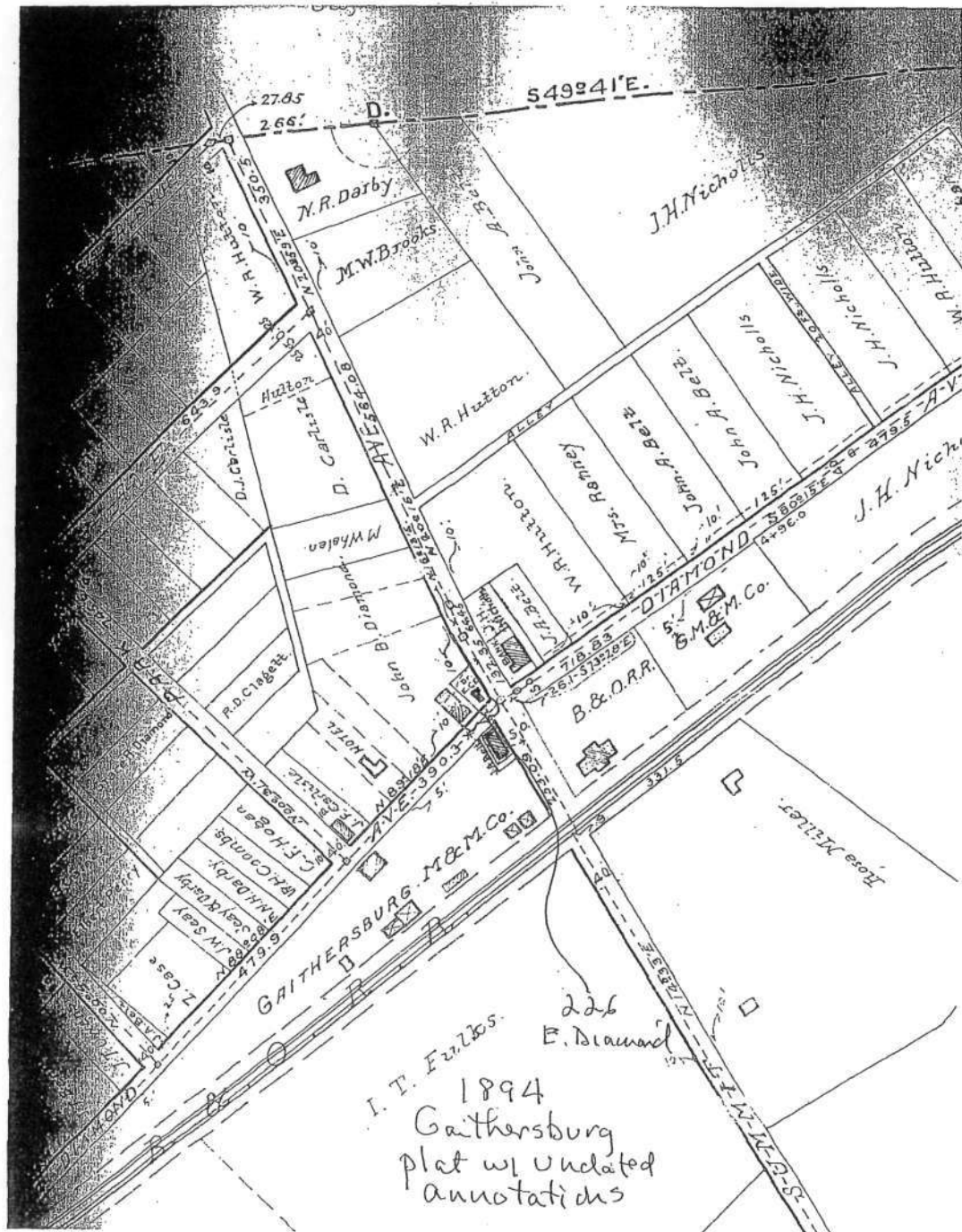


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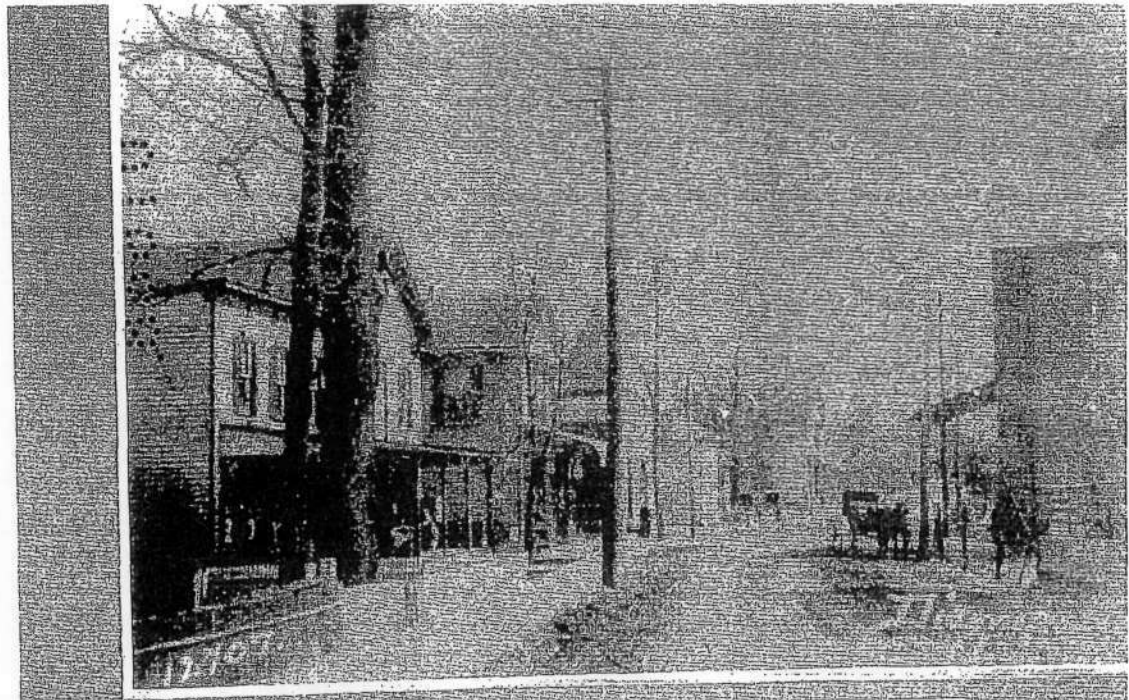
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VIEW LOOKING EAST ON DIAMOND AVENUE  
c. 1910  
(Photo courtesy Albert Fulk)

HISTORIC PHOTO 1 (City of GB)

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#226

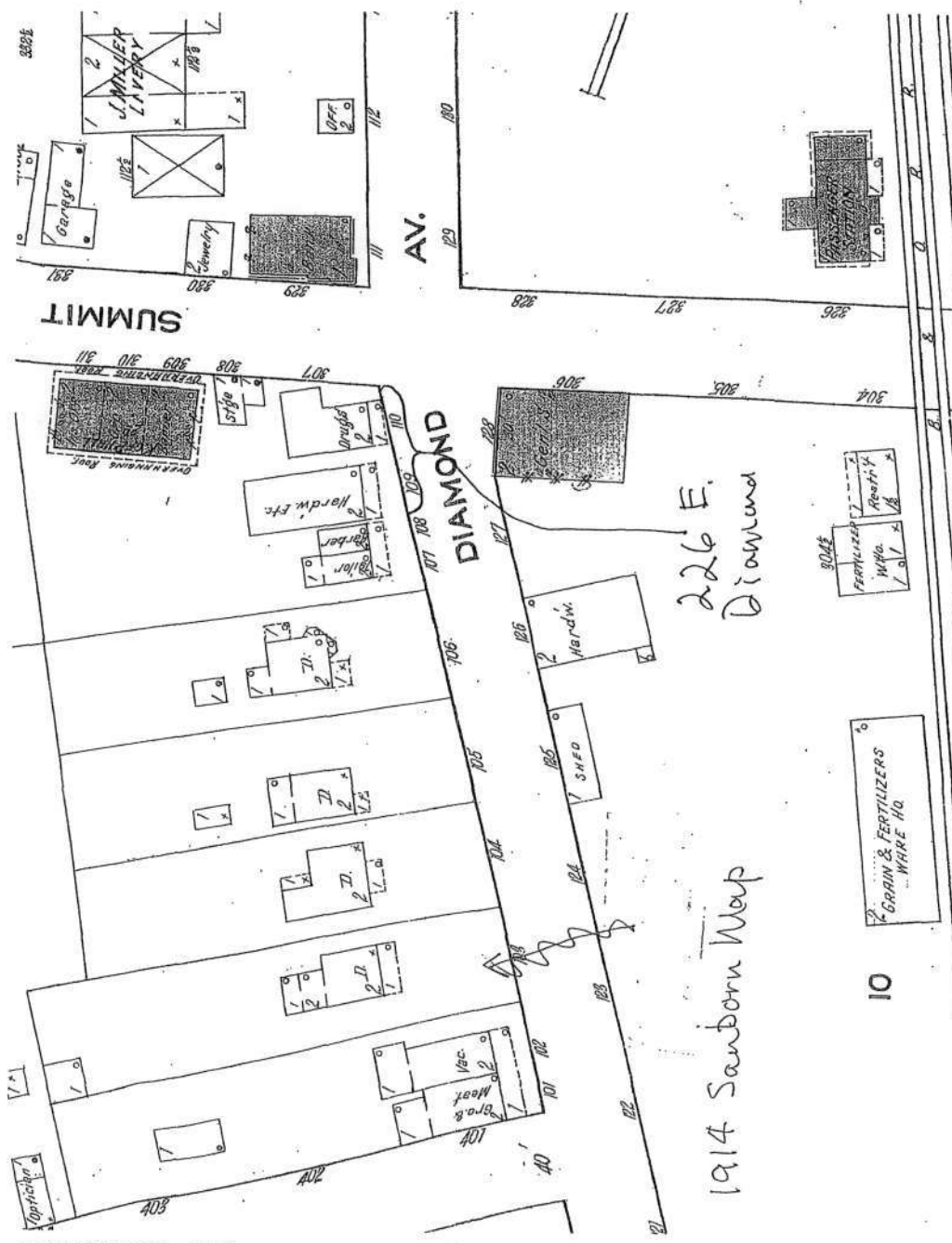
HISTORIC PHOTO 2 - City of G't

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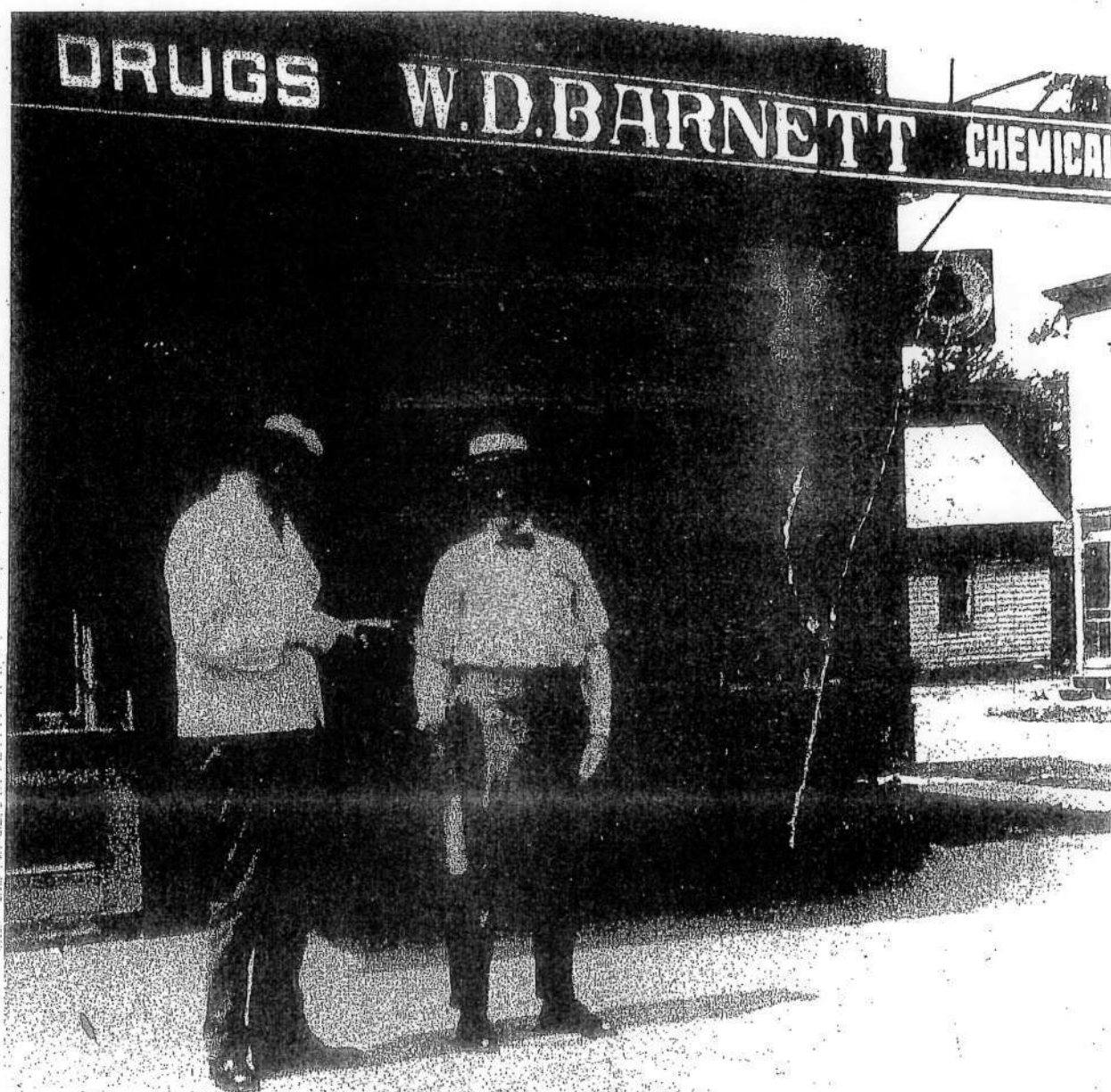


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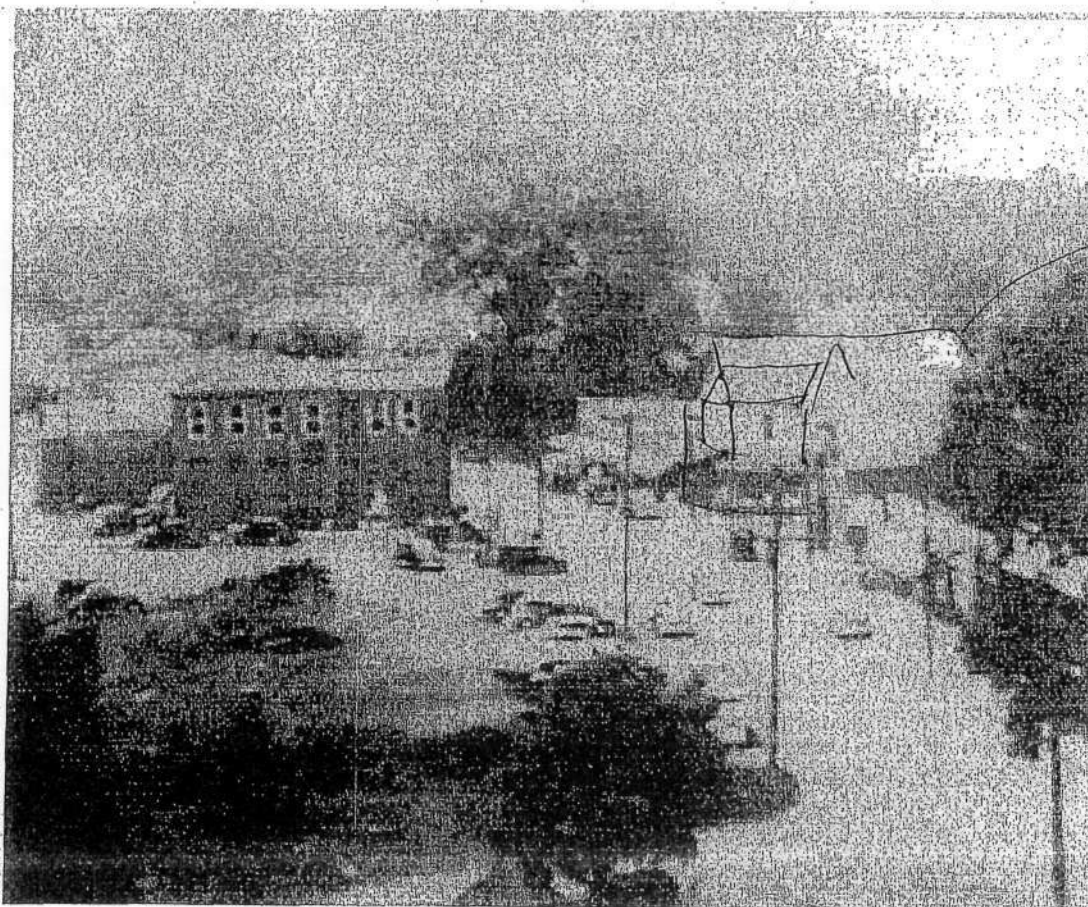
Historic photo 3, 1917 (Barnett left, J. Forest Walker, rt.)  
MHC LHS

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#226

HISTORIC PHOTO 4 - Kim Walker collection G'b  
Museum

Image 17 of 22

Click on photo for the previous view.

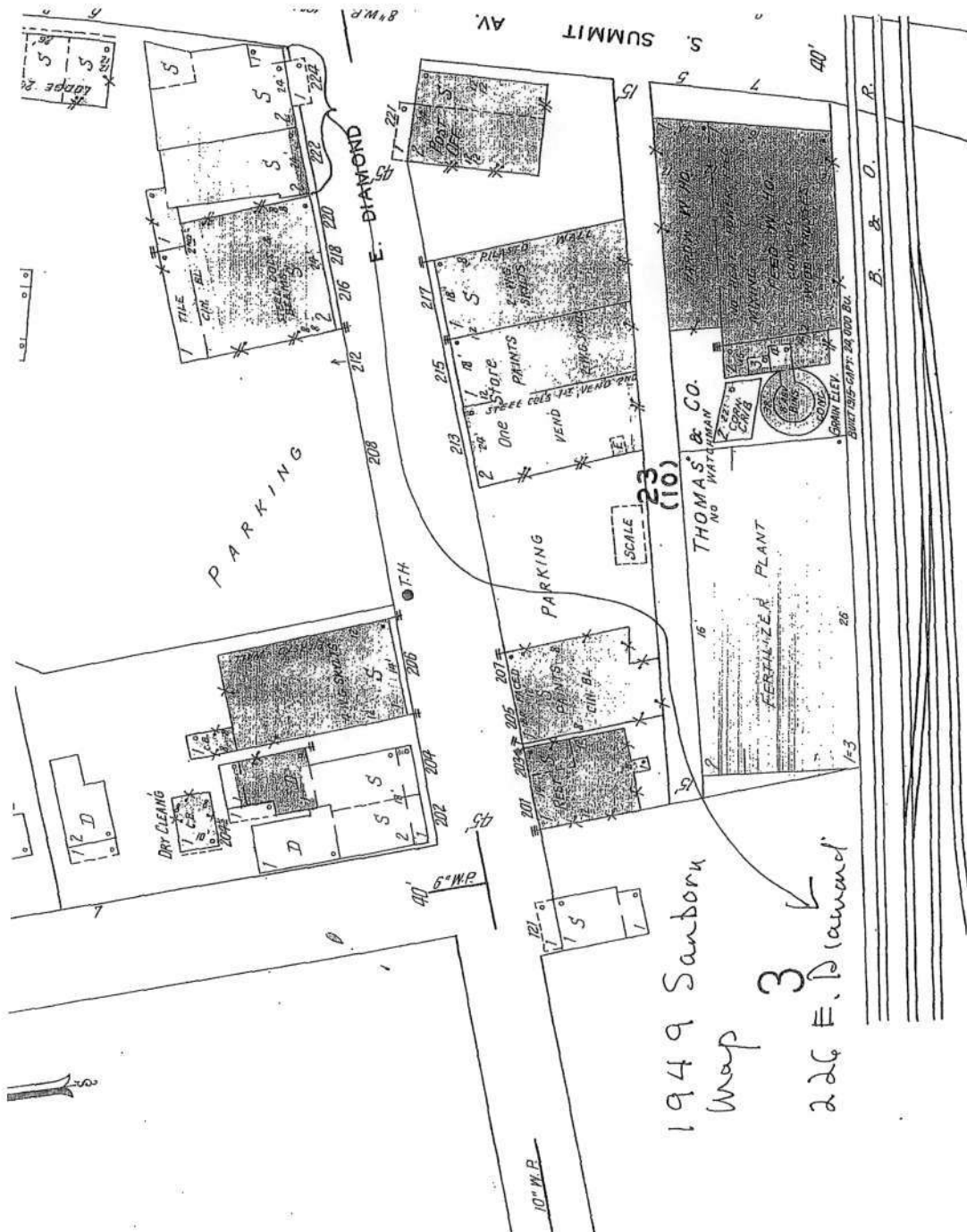


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# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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1 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

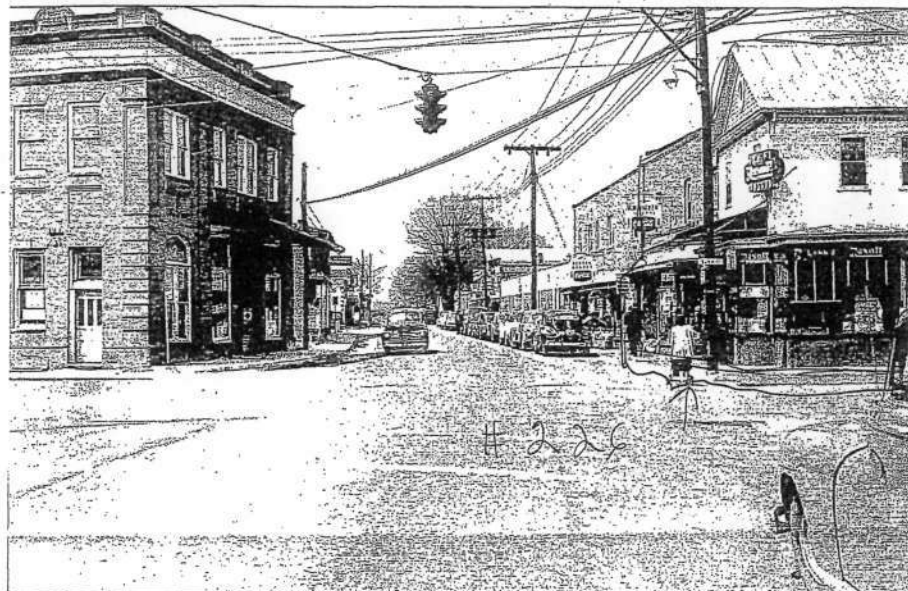
adj -  
hist. bldgs.



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1991

HISTORIC PHOTOS  
City of G.B.  
c1950

## COMMUNIQUE



### Come to the Labor Day Parade

Join the City of Gaithersburg and the Gaithersburg Washington Grove Volunteer Fire Department at the 53rd Annual Labor Day Parade on Monday, Sept. 2 beginning at 1 p.m.

The parade starts on East Diamond Avenue and Girard Street, continues down Diamond Avenue where it turns at Russell Avenue and ends at Odendahl Avenue.

Giant helium balloons will be featured in the parade again this year. Many groups, bands, majorettes, clowns, classic vehicles and floats will participate in the parade.

Gaithersburg's Mayor and City Council will pass out special Labor Day coins to commemorate the event.

For more information call the Recreation Department at 258-6350.

Olde Towne Gaithersburg Day - The intersection of Diamond and Summit Avenues as it appeared in 1950. This area will be featured as a part of the tenth annual Olde Towne Gaithersburg Day Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. as the City celebrates "Gaithersburg - A Maryland Main Street." See related stories on pages 4 and 5.

### We Have

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY

The Diamond Drug at 226 E. Diamond Ave. is historically significant as representing two of the first commercial buildings that sprang up near the new business center of Gaithersburg, following the inauguration of the B and O's Metropolitan Branch in 1873. Wood frame two-story buildings anchored two of the three corners of E. Diamond Ave. and Summit Ave. The brick First National Bank of Gaithersburg stood across the street on the third built corner. Nicholl's Harness Shop, now incorporated into Diamond Drug, was also an early commercial structure on the scene. The drug store is also significant for its associations with several prominent Gaithersburg families and individuals—the Diamonds, John Nicholls, the Etchisons, the Barnetts, the Myers, the Walkers, and the Kings. The two buildings claim little architectural integrity. The massing of the original drug store is still visible above the first floor—the gable ends and roof shapes are recognizable. The roof of the Nicholls' building, its rear elevation, and some of its side elevation are visible from the rear. Although the drug store has been much altered, it still gives a flavor of the late nineteenth-century to Olds Towne Gaithersburg.

### NARRATIVE

The building at 226 E. Diamond Ave. now known as Diamond Drug is comprised of two late nineteenth-century commercial buildings, joined together in the mid twentieth century. The corner building was Elisha C. Etchison's drug store; the building next door, now the luncheonette part of Diamond Drug, was Nicholl's Harness Shop.

In 1893, John and Grace Diamond sold to Elisha C. Etchison for \$100 2798 square feet at the corner of E. Diamond Ave. and what was then known as Clopper Ave., (now Summit Ave.) Clopper Ave. was named after Francis Clopper who had owned the Deer Park tract where the land stood.<sup>1</sup> The Diamonds had bought four acres of that tract on the north side of E. Diamond Ave from Clopper's heirs, his daughter and son-in-law.

Elisha Cornelius Etchison was born in 1848 and married Henrietta Dorsey in 1876. He attended Montgomery County public schools and went to the Frederick Academy. He taught school from 1870 to 1873 and studied medicine in his spare time. He then went to the University of Maryland, Baltimore, for medical school, graduating in 1874, and came to Gaithersburg to set up his practice. In 1879 he built the family's home on Frederick Ave. where the Maryland Pawn Shop is now located, next to the Grace Methodist Church. Besides practicing medicine, "Dr Neal" served in many civic positions for the young town of Gaithersburg. He died in 1916. His son Garnett Etchison, a pharmacist, ran the drug store.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MC LF JA42/172, 12/1/1893.

<sup>2</sup> See Janet Manuel's genealogy of the Etchison family in Heart at 357-359.

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In 1903, Etchison's Drug Store survived the fire that destroyed John Belt's original wood frame store, where the c. 1904 brick Belt Building now stands. According to Marshall Walker's account to his son Milton, the fire at Belt's store was caused by kerosene leaking out of a tank in the store and igniting. The fire was intense and threatened the drug store. Mike Monred, who worked for the railroad, muscled some wooden box car doors into the middle of Diamond Ave. and held them up to shield the structure, while others sprayed the drug store and the box car doors with water.

In 1915, Etchison leased the store to William Barnett, including "all that store room, basement, and ware room used as a drug store... including electrical fixtures, upright wall cases, and prescription counter." The terms of the lease were \$18/month for the first year and \$20 per month thereafter. After Etchison's death in 1916, his widow Henrietta renewed the lease for 10 years.<sup>3</sup> In 1926, Barnett bought the store from Mrs. Etchison, to whom Dr. Etchison had left the store in his will.<sup>4</sup>

William D. Barnett owned and operated the drug store until 1945. He and his wife Emma were raised in Texas and met at the Tyler (Texas) Business School. They married in 1905, on their way to the Washington area. He worked for the Treasury Department and a Washington drug store. He received his pharmacy degree from George Washington University. He and his family came to Gaithersburg in 1915, when he leased Etchison's drug store. In 1918, they bought their home at 105 S. Summit Ave, where they raised four children. By 1943, Mrs. Barnett had died and in 1944 William Barnett sold the family's home. After selling Barnett's Drug Store he continued to work as a pharmacist for different drug stores in the area for 16 more years. He died in 1966 at age 85.<sup>5</sup>

Starting in 1938, a volunteer lending library began in the two upstairs rooms of the drug store, with the generous donation by "Dr." Barnett of his space and his book collection. (Earlier, these rooms had been occupied as the dental office and waiting room of Bates Etchison, DDS, nephew of Elisha Etchison. Bates Etchison would on occasion throw extracted teeth out his window, to the curious amazement of young boys below.<sup>6</sup>) In 1945, William Barnett sold the drug store property to Lawson King.<sup>7</sup> (See Historic Photo 6 of Barnett and King.) Lawson King added a small piece of land in 1950.<sup>8</sup> Following Lawson King's purchase of the property, it was rented out to other pharmacists, Dr. Lynn (who later opened a drug store across Summit Ave.), Dr. Johnson, and, until 6 or 8 years ago, Bill Carmey.<sup>9</sup> The business is now owned by Dukaye Berek.

The second of the two nineteenth century commercial buildings that now comprise 226 E. Diamond was the Nicholl's Harness shop. The building was apparently built by John B. and Grace Diamond and rented to John H. Nicholl's as his harness factory. In 1912, Nicholls bought the property from the Diamonds.<sup>10</sup> Nicholl's claimed to have the best selection of harnesses and related merchandise on the state, outside of Baltimore.<sup>11</sup> In 1921, Nicholls, joined by the Diamonds (to facilitate a correction to the earlier deed) sold the 2362 square feet property to Anna Myers for \$3900. It was described as "being the same land upon which is located the building now and for many years occupied by the said J. H. Nicholls as a harness factory".<sup>12</sup> At this location the Israel and Anna Myers established

<sup>3</sup> 252/413, 11/26/1915; 270/12, 11/26/1917.

<sup>4</sup> 414/471, 12/24/1926; will recorded at HCA19/90.

<sup>5</sup> MHT form for 105 S. Summit Ave., quoting from Miss Edith Barnett, daughter of Emma and William Barnett; obituary in Barnett biography file at MCHS.

<sup>6</sup> Interview with Milton Walker by author, 9/16/02.

<sup>7</sup> 989/18, 10/29/1945.

<sup>8</sup> 1349/57, 1/23/1950 (1327 square feet).

<sup>9</sup> Interview with Milton Walker by author, 9/16/02.

<sup>10</sup> 228/205, 5/27/1912.

<sup>11</sup> Heart at 85.

<sup>12</sup> 312/15, 11/25/1921.



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their ready-to-wear store serving men and women.<sup>13</sup> They added additional small land parcels.<sup>14</sup> They later built the Center Market building next door at #220 E. Diamond. (See MHT form for #220 E. Diamond Ave.) After Israel Myers' death in 1944, Anna Myers sold the former Nicholl's harness factory to William Lawson King.<sup>15</sup> After King acquired the drug store and Myers store properties, he converted their open second stories to apartments.<sup>16</sup>

After the death of Israel Myers in 1943 and the sale of the Myers' store to Lawson King, Marshall Walker rented the Myers' store space and moved Walker's Grocery there, in the early 1950's. Before that, he had managed the Sanitary Market (later Safeway) at 223-225 E. Diamond. He then opened his own grocery in Forest Walker's (former John Belt's) building across from Barnett's drug store. His sons Murray and Milton Walker worked in the grocery business with him. After Marshall Walker's death in 1959, Milton Walker continued the business until 1966.<sup>17</sup> In 1966, Milton Walker closed the grocery in order to concentrate on his growing laundry business. (See MHT form for 122 E. Diamond Ave.) After 1966, Lawson King removed the partition between the drug store and the grocery space, making way for the luncheonette part of the present Diamond drug store.

The two buildings that comprise 226 E. Diamond Ave. have undergone many changes in their many years' of commercial use. The following is a time line documenting some of those changes:

- The two buildings appear on as undated hand drawn annotations on the 1894 map of Gaithersburg (copy attached) The drug store building, labeled "Dr. E. C. E." is shown as a small L-shaped cross gable building, one piece facing E. Diamond Ave. and the other, Summit Ave. The Nicholl's building is not labeled, and is shown as a much larger rectangle, facing E. Diamond Ave.
- Two early twentieth century photos show the two buildings—(1) in the view looking east on E. Diamond Ave. (Historic Photo 1) the front gable of the drug store is visible, with two projecting shop windows and a canvas awning; a second story window overlooks a large space between the two buildings. The Nicholl's building with front gable (and returns) has a front porch with wood columns. A double-hung window with shutters and possibly a door are visible above the porch. (2) in the view looking west on E. Diamond Ave. (Historic Photo 2), the Nicholl's building is blocked from view by the drugstore. The drug store building has three tall double-hung windows with shutters below the front gable, another facing Summit Ave, and metal signs applied on the first floor exterior. The small cross gable section facing Summit Ave. is just in view, with windows on the first and second floors. A doorway on Summit is just visible. There is a round window in the front gable peak. Both buildings are set back from the edge of a new sidewalk.
- The 1913 Sanborn Map (attached) shows the two buildings, the open porch of the Nicholl's building ("hardware etc") projecting as far as the enclosed structure of the "drug st". To the rear on summit Ave. are two small attached sheds marked "st'ge."
- A 1917 photo of W. D. Barnett (Historic Photo 3) and J. Forest Walker, shows the projecting shop windows and entry on E. Diamond Ave.
- 7/15/1919, W. D. Barnett applies for building permit for show window at store. (City of Gaithersburg files)

<sup>13</sup> Heart at 100.

<sup>14</sup> 751/355, 9/16/1939 (.24 acre); 614/240, 1/9/1936 (666 square feet); 438/136, 4/19/1927 (952 square feet).

<sup>15</sup> 930/307, 2/9/c1944.

<sup>16</sup> Interview by author with Milton Walker, 9/16/02.

<sup>17</sup> Heart at 398 - 406, Janet Manuel's genealogy of the Walker family.

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- The 1930 Sanborn Map (attached) shows the drug store building enlarged—the open area at the corner between the two gabled pieces is filled in and there is an addition on the rear, slightly deeper than the (by then) Myers store building.
- 4/2/1935, W. D. Barnett applies for a building permit for a 12' x 24' x 24' rear addition to the drug store.
- A c. 1940's photo (Historic Photo 4) taken from atop the silos of Bowman's Mill shows the drug store with a one-story shed roof over the in-fill at the corner. It and the Myers' store building have deep awnings on E. Diamond.
- The 1949 Sanborn Map (attached) shows the two buildings after they were acquired by Lawson King. The Myers' building ("S" for store) has been extended toward E. Diamond to be even with Center Market and the drug store façade. The gap between the drug store and the Myers' store has been filled in and incorporated into the drug store. A brick front has been added to the Myers' building and the in fill. The open corner between the drug store gable facing Summit Ave. and the rear addition has also been filled in. That in fill is partitioned off and labeled as a store also. A brick addition on the rear of the Center Market encloses the irregular gap between it and the Myers store. A one-story open porch on the original front of the drug store extends out over the street.
- A 1950 photo (Historic Photo 5) shows the drug store corner from the east looking west. (Historic Photo 5) The brick front on the Myers store is visible, at the same height as the second story of Center Market, but of a different color brick. The drug store has a wrap around one-story shed roof corner addition, with brick below the shop windows. A high awning on its front façade shelters the entry. The Myers' store building has projecting shop windows under a shed roof. The second story windows in the drug store have been altered.
- 1960 aerial view (attached, Historic Photo 7) shows the cross gable roofs of the original drug store and additions. It also shows the brick front on the Myers' store and in fill.
- Feb 22, 1969 photo (Historic Photo 8) from the Sentinel shows a different configuration of shed addition, with parapet, and entry moved to corner position. Shop windows no longer project from front facades of drug store and Myers store.
- Undated photo (Historic Photo 9) of Walker's grocery, with flush shop windows.
- Undated photos (Historic Photos 10 and 11) show facades of Diamond Drug and what had been Walker's store. Front windows of Walker's store covered over.

According to the date on the present façade of the old Walker's grocery part of Diamond Drug, "WLK '82", the present stucco front on the store and in fill, with decorative cornice, dates from that time. The canopy dates from the time of the Olde Towne revitalization of the 1980's. The attached tax assessor's worksheet shows the building's present footprint.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See footnotes

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .516

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Gaithersburg

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

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date 11/2/2002

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

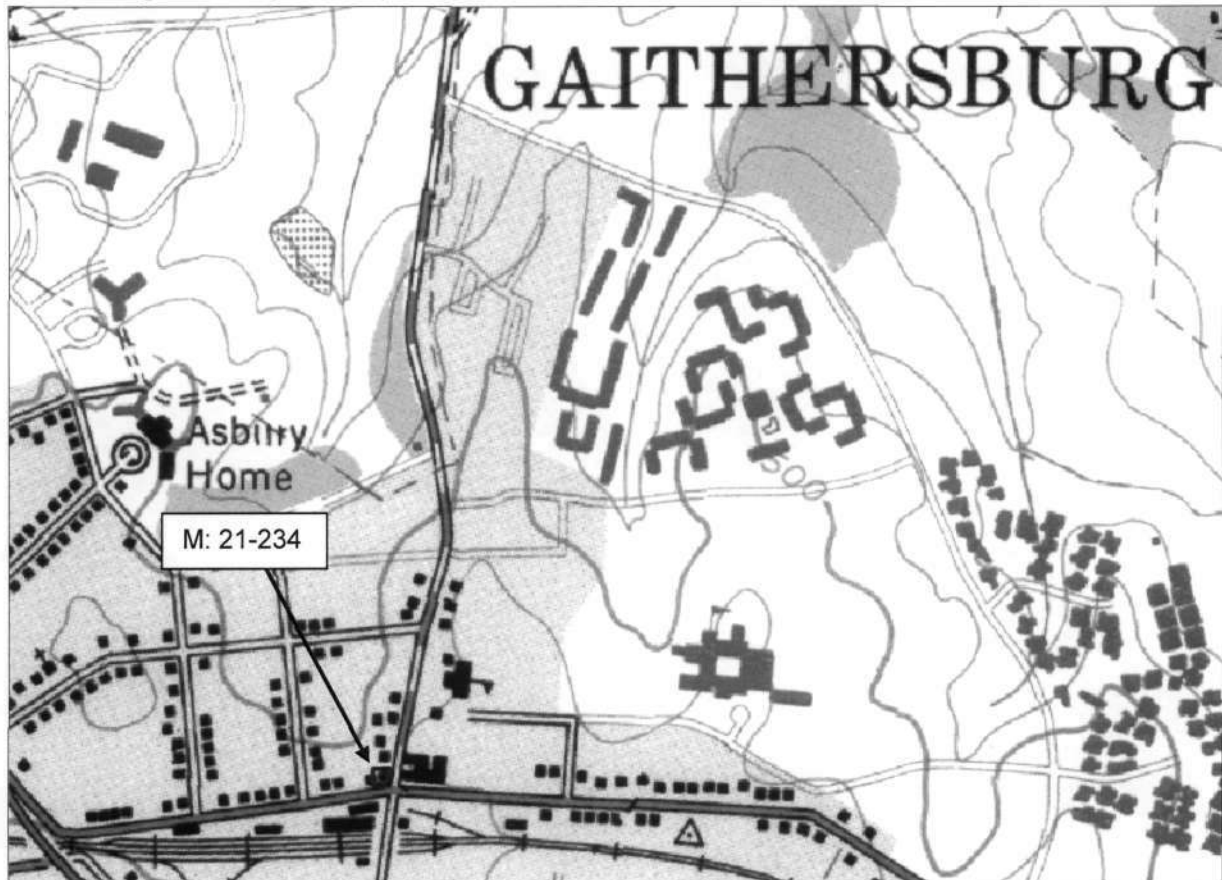
Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

M: 21-234

Diamond Drug Store (Etchison's Drug Store, Barnett's Drug Store)

226 E. Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg

Gaithersburg Quadrangle 1945 (Photorevised 1979)



National Web Map Service 6" OPM, '07-08

Tax Maps FT561 & FT562, p. P987

